

To: Solid Waste Planning Areas

From: Solid Waste Alternative Program Advisory Committee

Date: December XX, 2008

Re: Participation in Emergency Management System pilot program

Six solid waste planning areas will have an opportunity to participate in an Emergency Management System (EMS) pilot project under a bill unanimously approved by the 2008 Legislature and signed by Governor Culver. This groundbreaking legislation, known as HF 2570, is designed to provide significant long-term benefits for the environment and the citizens of the state of Iowa.

The EMS designation process developed as a result of HF 2570 creates an opportunity to solid waste planning areas or their designated representative (i.e., a landfill service area) to be judged by the progress in the programs and services provided, rather than strictly by the state's 25% and 50% diversion goals. The Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Council, which was established by the legislation and appointed by DNR Director Rich Leopold, is attempting to gauge the level of interest in the EMS program.

If your area works and continues to improve in the following areas or is planning to provide programs in these areas, you are eligible to apply to be one of the first six planning areas designated as an EMS.

- Yard Waste Management
- Hazardous Household Waste Collection
- Water Quality Improvement
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Recycling Services
- Environmental Education

Being designated as an "Environmental Management System" also requires the use of a continuous improvement process to continue making progress in all aspects of your operations and programs. The benefits of being designated an EMS include:

- An exemption from solid waste reduction goals as imposed by section 455D.3
- A net DNR tonnage fee of \$2.10, which is equivalent to your area being above 25% and the statewide diversion average
- Setting your own performance goals and measurement processes
- Access to financial assistance as recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Council

EMS will be a system that will benefit your community now and in the future, so please consider getting informed and involved with the process. The Advisory Council plans to have opportunities to learn more about EMS for all planning areas as the implementation of the legislation moves forward.

Enclosed is a copy of the legislation, elements of an EMS, and the definitions of these EMS elements. While this is not your only opportunity to become designated an Environmental Management System, the Advisory Council will expect ongoing input and feedback from the first group of participants. The Advisory Council would like to see a wide range of participation from various sizes of planning areas as well as those with different types of programs and levels of experience.

If you would like to know more about this program or if you already know that you want to apply for EMS designation, please indicate your interest in applying by notifying Brian Tormey, DNR, by December XX, 2008. At that time, a formal narrative application will be sent to those interested in the initial pilot project.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to call -----.